

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ikushima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,599,119). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Ikushima fails to disclose or suggest a copper alloy including 2.0 to 4.0 mass% of Ti, and second-phase particles represented by Cu-Ti-X system particles, wherein X is selected from the group consistent of Pb, Sn, Zn, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, S, Si, Al, P, As, Se, Te, Sb, Bi, Au, and Ag, as recited in independent claim 1. Support for this feature can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 10-12.

Ikushima teaches an age-hardening copper titanium alloy containing 2 to 6 % by weight of titanium and composed of a substantially fully solution heat treated structure having an average crystal range size not exceeding 25 μ m (Abstract). In the August 11, 2005, Office Action, the Patent Office asserts that because the second-phase element contents are "overlapped by the cited reference," the properties claimed would have been inherently possessed by Ikushima (Office Action, page 3, lines 7-11). However, Ikushima fails to disclose or suggest the specific alloying elements recited in independent claim 1. Thus, because Ikushima fails to disclose or suggest these specific alloying elements, Ikushima cannot anticipate or render obvious the features of independent claim 1.

Moreover, there is no motivation in Ikushima to mix the copper titanium alloy disclosed in Ikushima with any of the elements recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is not anticipated, and would not have been rendered obvious by the teachings of Ikushima. Thus, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over Ikushima. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 13, 2006

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